



# SEAT PLEASANT NEWS

MAY 2012 EDITION Visit us on the web at: [www.seatpleasantmd.gov](http://www.seatpleasantmd.gov)

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## City of Seat Pleasant

### Mayor

Eugene W. Grant

### Council President

Kelly Porter

(At-Large Councilmember)

### Ward I Councilmember

Elenora Simms

### Ward II Councilmember

Aretha Stephenson

### Ward III Councilmember

Reveral Yeargin

### Ward IV Councilmember

Gerald Raynor

### Ward V Councilmember

Darrell Hardy

### At-Large Council member

Johnie L. Higgs, Sr.

### City Administrator

Vincent E. Jones

### Treasurer

Robert L. Ashton

### Chief of Police

Samuel Prue

### Director of Public Works

Johnny Thompson

### City Clerk

Dashaun Lanham



## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

### Seat Pleasant's 1st Annual Autism Awareness Event Builds Community Awareness Across Prince Georges County.

On Saturday April 14, 2012, the City of Seat Pleasant; A City of Excellence and Seat Pleasant Elementary School celebrated Autism Awareness Week by playing host to *Embrace Autism! 1st Annual Autism Awareness Conference*. About 120 parents, community leaders, elected officials, police officers and activists came to Seat Pleasant Elementary to learn more about Acceptance, Awareness, and Support. The day started off with a keynote speech from Rhonda Greenhaw, Director of the Center for Adults with Autism at Towson University. The event then moved into a panel discussion focusing on a broad and important topic "Behavioral Concerns" with eight panelists ranging from a college student living with Autism, parents, experts on Autism Spectrum Disorders, and teachers. There was a question and answer portion and most parents wanted to get a better understanding of how to deal with their child when they are having an episode, whether it be giving them their favorite object, or letting them physically squeeze a ball or pop bubble wrap to calm their child. Following the Panel Discussion, attendees then broke into three rotating workshops 1) Conversation Starters & Building Friendships 2) Fostering Independence in Your Child and 3) Accessing the Community and its Resources.

Additionally, there was a special break out session held for law enforcement officers, many of Prince George's Counties police and municipal police officers attended this workshop from all over the County. The workshop, Autism and Law Enforcement was taught by Montgomery County Officer Laurie Reyes, who specializes in teaching officers about recognizing and dealing with an autistic individual. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated an increase in diagnoses among children in a report issued March 2012 that increased from 1 in 110 to 1 in 88 diagnosed nationwide. These numbers mean that officers are more likely to have encounters with an individual living with an Autism Spectrum Disorder.



Several organizations stepped in to sponsor the event with materials, volunteers, give-a-ways and donations, including; Autism Speaks, Kennedy Krieger Institute, One World Center for Autism, Seat Pleasant McDonalds, Prince Georges County Young Democrats, Down Town Locker Room, and the City of Seat Pleasant



## OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK



The City Council has introduced the following legislations in the month of March and April.

### Resolution R-12-11

**Resolution** of the Council of the City of Seat Pleasant to consent to the designation of the of the City of Seat Pleasant as a Sustainable Community, and to approve a Sustainable Community application

### Resolution R-12-12

**Resolution** to approve the City of Seat Pleasant, application and receipt of financing for a Community Legacy Project

### Resolution R-12-13

**Resolution** of the Council of the City of Seat Pleasant Adopting a Mission Statement for the City of Seat Pleasant

### Ordinance O-12-12

**FOR** the purpose of amending the City's Personnel Rules and Regulations Manual, Chapter XI "Retirement, Health & Other Benefits," Article 4 "Life Insurance" to increase the amount of life insurance provided to full-time permanent employees from \$10,000.00 to \$25,000.00.

### Ordinance O-12-13

**FOR** the purpose of amending the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Budget to reflect the Maryland Energy Lighting Grant in the amount of \$28,000.00

Copies of this legislation are available from the Office of the City Clerk at: City Hall, 6301 Addison Road, Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743-2125

## **CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT** **NOTICE TO CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE**

In accordance with the City of Seat Pleasant City Charter, candidate applications and registered voter petitions, which shall include the names and signatures of at least 20 registered voters in the City of Seat Pleasant, must be submitted to the Office of the City Clerk by **5:00 PM ON TUESDAY, JULY 10, 2012. NO EXCEPTIONS.** Once voter qualifications have been verified, qualified candidates will be notified of certification to run for the petitioned office.

Section C-610. Nominations: Candidates for election to the office of Councilmember or Mayor shall file with the Board of Election Supervisors a petition signed by at least 20 registered voters of the City of Seat Pleasant at least sixty (60) days (including Sundays and holidays) prior to the date of such election. Such petition shall state (1) the name and address of the candidate, (2) the fact that such person is eligible for election to the office of Councilmember or Mayor and (3) that such person wishes his name placed on the ballot as candidate. Such petition shall be sworn to by the person filing same, both as to the fact of the candidate's eligibility and as to the genuineness of the signatures of such petition. No person shall be eligible for elective City public office who has not fulfilled the requirements of this section. No candidate shall file for election for more than one City public office at any one election.

## **CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT** **BOARD OF ELECTION SUPERVISORS**

The City of Seat Pleasant is seeking interested parties to the Board of Election Supervisors. In accordance with the Seat Pleasant City Charter the duties of the Board of Elections are listed below. The interested parties shall submit a letter of interest and resume to the Office of the Mayor **IMMEDIATELY**. The positions are opened until filled.

Section C-605. Duties The Board of Supervisors of Elections shall be in charge of the registration of voters, nominations, and all City elections. The Board may appoint election clerks or other employees to assist it in any of its duties. (continued on the next page)

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## A WORD FROM COUNCILMAN PORTER



Tax season is over but here are some tips for the future regarding tax records.

### **Tax Records: What to Keep, What to Toss**

When it comes to tax-related documents, good record keeping means knowing what to toss, and what to keep and for how long. The IRS Internal Revenue Service doesn't require to keep records in any particular way. Develop a system that helps you and the IRS figure your correct tax.

### **Keep Track of expenses**

Throughout the year, collect receipts that document tax deductions. Consider designating a file for each tax credit, such as child care; and for each deduction, such as medical expenses, charitable contributions, mortgage interest, real estate taxes, alimony, and casualty losses. Cash payments require a dated and signed receipt showing amount and description. If you use a software package for record keeping, you'll need to produce proof of payment, receipts, and other documents to prove amounts on your return.

### **Organize home records**

Keep closing statements, purchase and sales invoices, and proof-of-payment and insurance records. Keep improvement records until you sell the home.

### **Just hang on**

Keep W-2s, 1099s and brokerage and financial statements to prove income at least three years after you file or longer if necessary. Some experts advise keeping copies of tax returns forever, and supporting documentation for up to seven years. IRS guidelines state that you should keep documentation for deductions at least three years, but if you've underreported income by 25%, the IRS can audit up to six years later. If you filed a fraudulent return or didn't file one at all, all bets are off—an audit can occur at any time.

### **Shred or burn**

Get rid of receipts that don't document a tax deduction or that aren't large purchases or warranties. Shred credit card receipts and statements that don't contain tax related expenses after matching them against your monthly statement. Match paycheck stubs against your annual W-2, then shred the stubs. Verify quarterly retirement and savings statements against the annual summary, then shred.

For more information, visit the IRS website at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). Search for publication 552.

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## A WORD FROM COUNCILMEMBER STEPHENSON



On Saturday, May 12th, Walk to Fitness will kickoff in Goodwin Park beginning at 9:00 a.m. (See the flyer on the back page) This year we have added bike riding to the mix, so dust off those bicycles and let's get moving. We will travel from City Hall down to Goodwin Park. The entrance to Goodwin Park is located on 69th street off of Crown Street. Also, another Crime Prevention meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 23rd between 6:00 to 8 p.m. at the Pleasant Homes Community Center located 6810 Greig Street in Seat Pleasant. The days have been changed from the every 3rd Wednesday to every 4th Wednesday. If you have any questions contact me at 240-601-1037. Hope to see you there!

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## A WORD FROM COUNCILMEMBER SIMMS

During the month of May, the City will be having its Annual City Wide Clean up (Please see page 6 for more details. I encourage residents to take part in this effort. Take this time to get rid of those unwanted items that are no longer useful and causing clutter in your home or yard. Let's join together to beautify our City and make it inviting to others. Together we can make a difference.





## CRIME STATISTICS FOR THE SEAT PLEASANT POLICE DEPARTMENT

Below are the crime statistics for March for the City of Seat Pleasant.

### MARYLAND

01723  
AGENCY IDENTIFIER

FORWARD BY 7TH DAY AFTER THE END OF EACH MONTH TO :  
CENTRAL RECORDS DIVISION - UCR SECTION  
MARYLAND STATE POLICE, PIKESVILLE, MD 21208

1

#### RETURN A - MONTHLY COUNT OF OFFENSES KNOWN TO POLICE

1 CLASSIFICATION OF OFFENSES <small>(PART 1 OFFENSES)</small>		2 OFFENSES REPORTED OR KNOWN TO POLICE (INCLUDE UNFOUNDED AND ATTEMPTS) <small>(A)</small>	3 UNFOUNDED, I.E. FALSE OR BASELESS COMPLAINTS <small>(B)</small>	4 NUMBER OF ACTUAL OFFENSES (COLUMN 2 MINUS COLUMN 3) INCLUDE ATTEMPTS	5 TOTAL OFFENSES CLEARED BY ARREST OR EXCEPTIONAL MEANS <small>(Includes Column 6)</small>	6 NUMBER OF CLEARANCES INVOLVING ONLY PERSONS UNDER 18
<b>1. Criminal Homicide</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
a. Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter	11					
b. Manslaughter by negligence	12					
<b>2. Forcible rape</b> <b>Total</b>	20	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
a. Rape by force	21	0	0	0	0	0
b. Assault to rape attempts	22	0	0	0	0	0
<b>3. Robbery</b> <b>Total</b>	30	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
a. Firearm	31	0	0	0	0	0
b. Knife or cutting instrument	32	0	0	0	0	0
c. Other dangerous weapon	33	0	0	0	0	0
d. Strong-arm (hands, fists, feet, etc.)	34	0	0	0	0	0
<b>4. Assault</b> <b>Total</b>	40	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
a. Firearms	41	2	0	2	0	0
b. Knife or cutting instrument	42	0	0	0	0	0
c. Other dangerous weapon	43	0	0	0	0	0
d. Hands, fists, feet, etc. - aggravated	44	2	0	2	2	0
e. Hands, fists, feet, etc. - simple	45	0	0	0	0	0
<b>5. Breaking and Entering</b> <b>Total</b>	50	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
a. Forcible entry	51	1	0	1	0	0
b. Unlawful entry - no force	52	2	0	2	0	0
c. Attempted forcible entry	53	0	0	0	0	0
<b>6. Larceny - Theft</b> <b>Total</b> <small>(except Motor Vehicle Theft)</small>	60	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>7. Motor Vehicle Theft</b> <b>Total</b>	70	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
a. Autos	71	2	0	2	0	0
b. Trucks and Buses	72	0	0	0	0	0
c. Other Vehicles	73	0	0	0	0	0
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	77	<b>21</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>

The Police Department will be hosting a Police Community Meeting on May 19th, 2012 at Seat Pleasant City Hall, 6301 Addison Road Seat Pleasant, Maryland at 10 a.m. Come out and discuss your concerns regarding the Police Department and budget issues regarding their department. Let your voice be heard.

### A WORD FROM CODE ENFORCEMENT FOR YOUR INFORMATION

#### BRUSHES AND GRASS

It's that time of year again to start cutting your grass and trimming your hedges. Please be mindful that your grass can not exceed 8" inches in height and that your hedges need to be no more than (3) three feet in height or encroach onto any public sidewalk or street.

#### ANIMALS

Keeping of certain restricted animals are prohibited. No person shall raise, keep or maintain any pigeons, live poultry, rabbits or livestock in such a way as to constitute a nuisance or in any way be menace to the public health. There shouldn't be any live chickens roaming around the City.

(CODE ENFORCEMENT CONTINUED)

### **CITY CODE 54-7. ANIMALS RUNNING AT LARGE**

No owner or keeper of any dog shall permit such dog to run at large. Also residents please remember that all dogs shall be leashed while off the premises of the owner, and at no time shall dogs be allowed to run at large throughout the City. If such animal is found, they will be impounded and the owner may be fined.

**IPMC 304.14 – INSECT SCREENS-** During the period from May 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>, every door, window and other outside opening required for ventilation of habitable rooms, shall be supplied with approved tightly fitting screens of not less than 16 mesh per inch (16 mesh per 25mm), and every screen door used for insect control shall have a self-closing device in good working condition.

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## **A WORD FROM CPAC**

### **Air Conditioners and Safety**

We've had a beautiful winter and spring time is right around the corner. Before you know it, the temperatures will rise and it will be time to turn on the air. Please be extra careful if you have a window air conditioner unit! The police tell us that many burglaries occur during warm weather – thieves take advantage of the easy access to our houses. One way they break in is through a window and many of these burglaries occur when they push in or pull out an air conditioner to get into a home. Don't become one of these statistics. If you have a window unit, bolt it down and make sure it's secure. Don't make it easy for someone to enter your home when you're not there.

Help us help you. If there's anything you'd like CPAC to discuss with the Seat Pleasant Police Department or Fire Department, please email us at [cpac.seatpleasant@live.com](mailto:cpac.seatpleasant@live.com). Let's keep Seat Pleasant safe!

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## **STATE RENTER'S TAX CREDIT PROGRAM**

**By Robert Ashton, City Treasurer**

The purpose of this article is to explain the program that is available from the State of Maryland to potentially lower your rental burden.

The Renter's Tax Credit Program provides credits for rent tenants who qualify based on a sliding scale of rental liability and income. The Renter's Tax Credit Program is a State funded program. This program was initiated in 1975, was originally limited to renter's age 60 and older and renters with disabilities. This program was expanded to renters of all ages in 1978. The last change to the renter's tax credit program occurred in 2004. This legislative initiative changed the Renter's Tax Credit to bring it in line with inflationary increases in rents since 1998. It is worth pointing out that according to Maryland State Department of Taxation and Assessment currently only 102 residents participate in this program. An additional 38 Seat Pleasant residents are eligible for the Renters' Tax Credit at a net savings of \$200 per resident. The State of Maryland's Renter's Tax Credit Program is 100% supported by State of Maryland. The deadline for submitting the Renters' Tax Credit Application is September 1, 2012. The Renter's Tax Credit Eligibility application can be completed by one of following methods: 1. By Mailing the application to the address below, 2. By Using the online Renter's Tax Credit Application (Application online is due September 1, 2012). 3. By Printing and mailing the pdf application on the State Department of Assessment and Taxation web site <http://www.dat.state.md.us>

**The State of Maryland Department of Assessment and Taxation mailing address is:**

**Department of Assessment and Taxation Renter' Tax Credit Program**

**301 West Preston Street Baltimore Maryland 21201**

**The State of Maryland Department of Assessment and Taxation web site is: <http://www.dat.state.md.us>**

**The State of Maryland Department of Assessment and Taxation phone number is 410-767-4433. If you have any questions please contact Robert L. Ashton City Treasurer 301/336-2600 extension 2230.**

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## A WORD FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

### CITY WIDE CLEAN UP IS HERE!

Once again the City of Seat Pleasant is conducting its City Wide Clean up. The clean up will be done by Wards beginning May 19, 2012. The schedule is as follows: **May 19, 2012**, Wards I and II, **May 26, 2012**, Wards III and IV, **June 2, 2012**, Ward V. The following services will take place: Derelict vehicles will be removed, trash and debris will be picked up, overgrown City lots will be cut, bulk trash will be removed, vacant buildings will be boarded up with strategies for corrective action. The Public Works Department will be available between 7 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. to assist each Ward on the assigned cleanup dates. The items acceptable for pick up from residents is as follows:

Bulk Trash Items (3 maximum)

1 Large Item per household (example: sofa, refrigerator (Freon must be removed and shelves left in the refrigerator))

2 small items (chair)

Tires (2 maximum)

Public Works will not pick up the following items:

Building materials (paints, oils, roofing, bricks, tiles, drywall, etc.)

Yard clippings, grass, leaves, etc.

Vehicle parts, tools



**Unacceptable items that are left curbside will be cited by Code Enforcement if not removed by the following week.**

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## A WORD FROM THE SEAT PLEASANT FIRE DEPARTMENT

During the week of May 20-26, the United States will be celebrating National EMS Week. This week is dedicated to the men and women who answer the call for emergency medical assistance 24/7, 365. To help us honor those men and women in Seat Pleasant, we want to hear about any experience you've had where you received excellent professional service from one of our great EMT's. There're numerous ways you can let us know. By mail: Phillip Martin 605 Addison Rd Seat Pleasant MD: By phone: 301-836-1957: or by email at [outreach@seatpleasantfire.com](mailto:outreach@seatpleasantfire.com). Help us in saying thank you to Emergency Medical Technicians all over the world that fight to save lives every day! EMS "It's not a job, it's a calling!"

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## SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH

The newsletter will now feature articles from our youth. We encourage our youth to submit an article for possible consideration for inclusion within the monthly newsletter. Additionally, while we reserve the right to publish or not publish any submission at our sole discretion, we will NOT publish submissions containing any of the following: Seemingly threatening, abusive, harassing, obscene, vulgar, pornographic, profane, indecent, defamatory, or libelous material; statements that are known to be intentionally false or misleading; offers to sell or buy any product or service; material that is known to infringe copyright; material that discriminates on the basis of race, religion, nationality, gender, sexual preference, age, region, or disability. Information that is known to be confidential, sensitive or otherwise in breach of the law; computer generated comments, commonly known as "spam; comments that are judged to be unrelated or extraneous to the post, article or story to which they are intended to refer, comment or appear.

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(SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH CONTINUED)

## IIIMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION

By: Giovanna Burkett, age 15

As a young person, I believe the importance of education in our community has always been an issue. Some young people, like myself, take their education seriously while others do not. Many do not see the opportunities that an education can open up for them. Education for our youth is paramount because it is the first step towards lifelong success. Today's youth are not just competing with peers on a national basis, but globally. One can be a genius without going to college, however, an education is required to reach beyond academic and professional limitations. Just like a builder cannot erect a foundation without his tools, you cannot build a future without an education. Success begins with realizing how important education is and a commitment to perpetual learning.

### Biography:

Born in Bethesda and raised in Baltimore, Giovanna Burkett has lived in the DMV area all her life. Her aspirations in life are to become a successful journalist, and if that fails she has a backup plan; politics. Some of her hobbies include cooking, studying, reading, and writing. She has family all along the East Coast, Midwest, and West Coast. Her first visit to New Mexico earlier this year has increased her determination and desire to achieve her dreams.

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## SEAT PLEASANT PARTICIPATES IN KIDNEY AWARENESS MONTH

On two consecutive Saturdays in the City of Seat Pleasant, the Seat Pleasant the University of Maryland Health Partnership (SPUMHP) hosted Kidney Awareness events. These events were held in observance of National Kidney Awareness Month, which is in March. The events were held to bring awareness to the Seat Pleasant and surrounding communities about the two main causes of Kidney Disease, Diabetes and High Blood Pressure.

The one-hour program consisted of a brief, factual and interactive presentation on Kidney Disease, blood pressure, glucose and body fat screenings, light kidney-friendly snacks, as well as healthy recipe cards and Kidney disease and related handouts.



The SPUMHP (formed in 1999) is a partnership between the City of Seat Pleasant and the University of Maryland designated to improve the health status of Seat Pleasant residents and those in surrounding communities, and intended to help public health students and faculty learn from residents and those in businesses, organizations, churches, and government in Seat Pleasant.



We are always seeking citizens who wish to join the Partnership. SPUMHP meetings are held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm in the City Hall Council Chambers. For more information on SPUMHP please visit [www.spumhealthpartnership.org](http://www.spumhealthpartnership.org) or call 301-405-2526.

City of Seat Pleasant

*"A City of Excellence"*

6301 Addison Road

Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743



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FIRST CLASS  
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PERMIT #235

### NOTICE

For those residents that were unable to attend the budget hearing or the cable franchise hearing on April 23rd, you still have an opportunity make your voice heard. A public hearing was held to give residents a chance to give their input before the budget process was completed.

With regards to the cable franchise hearing, the City is required to perform a community needs assessment to determine the future needs for the next franchise period. When looking forward and thinking of future needs, we must remember that cable television is no longer just video programming, but rather voice, video and data services. Therefore we are looking for your input on future needs and services as well as specific customer service categories to be addressed in a future cable franchise agreement. If you are further interested in the cable franchise negotiation or you want to comment on the budget or both, send us your comments, written to the City of Seat Pleasant 6301 Addison Road 20743 or e-mail to [kyrhlyn.rhoda@seatpleasantmd.gov](mailto:kyrhlyn.rhoda@seatpleasantmd.gov) by 5:00 p.m. by May 11, 2012.

### **WALK & BIKE TO EXCELLENCE**

*Seat Pleasant Community Walking Group*  
**2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL KICK-OFF EVENT**

**DATE: SATURDAY MAY 12, 2012**

**TIME: 9:00AM TO 11:00AM**

**START: SEAT PLEASANT CITY HALL - 6301 ADDISON RD**

**END: GOODWIN PARK - 311 68<sup>TH</sup> PLACE**

**WHO: FREE & OPEN TO EVERYONE!**

*ALL SPEEDS & EXPERIENCES WELCOME!*

*UNITE WITH COMMUNITY & IMPROVE YOUR HEALTH!*

*WEAR YOUR WALKING SHOES!*

*FRESH FRUIT AND WATER WILL BE PROVIDED BY  
COUNCILWOMAN STEPHENSON*

*FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT  
CITY HALL AT (301) 336-2600 OR  
COUNCILWOMAN ARETHA  
STEPHENSON AT (240) 601-1037*

